

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In an Office Action mailed 11 August 2004, claims 1 to 13 were rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable by a combination of references Iwata and Drake.

In respect of claim 7, Examiner stated that Iwata discloses a printer module having at least one connector at an end of said body for connecting one or more further modules to said printer module and a bus providing power and data between said printer module and said one or more further modules. With respect, Applicant disagrees that Iwata teaches these features. However, in order to advance this application, the Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 7 into claim 1, and amended the subject matter to recite that the bodies of the modular units abut each other once the connection between the modular units is made. By the term "body", it is meant the parts that house the working components of the modular units, eg the printer for the printer module, the camera for the camera module etc. Such a construction is supported within the definition of "body" in claim 1 and distinguishes the connector from a standard plug and socket, eg a USB connector. Neither Iwata nor Drake teach this type of interconnectivity between modules.

As the Examiner has highlighted, Iwata teaches at best that the body of the printer includes ports and sockets for receiving cables to other units, such as telephone sets etc. Iwata does not teach that these other units connect directly to the body of the printer module so that the body of one module abuts the body of the other. This idea is central to the compactness, portability and functionality of the printer module that is the subject of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant contends that claim 1 as amended herein is patentably distinguished from Iwata and Drake, either in isolation or in combination. This argument extends to each of the remaining claims because each claim is dependent on claim 1.

Applicant contends that the subject matter now defined in claim 1 is apparent from the specification as originally filed, in particular the Figures which clearly showing the different modules abutting each other in a rigid configuration. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been added by the amendment.

Applicant further contends that this response meets the requirements of a response under the Request for Continued Examination provisions and is fully responsive to the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, continued examination of the application is respectfully requested.

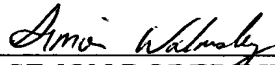
Very respectfully,

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